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2. A number of chimneys or funnels standing together.
A mason making a *stack* of chimneys, the foundation of the house funk. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
To *STACK*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To pile up regularly in ricks.
So likewise a hovel will serve for a room,
To *stack* on the pease. *Tusser.*
The prices of *stacking* up of wood I shall give you. *Mort.*
STACTE. *n. f.* An aromack; the gum that distills from the tree which produces myrrh.
Take sweet spices, *stacks*, and galbanum. *Ex. xxx. 34.*
STADLE. *n. f.* [Jrebel, Saxon, a foundation.]
1. Any thing which serves for support to another.
2. A staff; a crutch.
He cometh on, his weak steps governing
And aged limbs on cypress *stade* stout,
And with an ivy twine his waist is girt about. *Fa. Queen.*
3. A tree suffered to grow for coarse and common uses, as posts or rails. Of this meaning I am doubtful.
Leave growing for *staddles* the likeliest and best,
Though feller and buyer dispatched the rest. *Tusser.*
Coppice-woods, if you leave in them *staddles* too thick, will run to bushes and briars, and have little clean underwood. *Bac.*
To *STADLE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To furnish with *staddles*.
First see it well fenced, ere hewers begin;
Then see it well *stalled* without and within. *Tusser.*
STADTHOLDER. *n. f.* [*Stadt* and *houden*, Dutch.] The chief magistrate of the United Provinces.
STAFF. *n. f.* plur. *staves*. [Jreap; Saxon; *staff*, Danish; *stef*, Dutch.]
1. A stick with which a man supports himself in walking.
It much would please him,
That of his fortunes you would make a *staff*
To lean upon. *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
Grant me and my people the benefit of thy chaffinements,
that thy rod as well as thy *staff* may comfort us. *K. Charles.*
Is it probable that he, who had met whole armies in battle,
should now throw away his *staff*, out of fear of a dog. *Broome.*
2. A prop; a support.
Hope is a lover's *staff*; walk hence with that,
And manage it against despairing thoughts. *Shaksp. Lear.*
The boy was the very *staff* of my age, my very prop. *Shak.*
3. A stick used as a weapon; a club; the handle of an edged or pointed weapon. A *club* properly includes the notion of weight, and the *staff* of length.
I cannot strike at wretched kernes, whose arms
Are hid'd to bear their *staves*. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
He that bought the skin ran greater risk than t'other that
fold it, and had the worse end of the *staff*. *L'Estrange.*
With forks and *staves* the felon they pursue. *Dryden.*
4. Any long piece of wood.
He forthwith from the glitt'ring *staff* unful'd
Th' imperial ensign. *Milton.*
To his single eye, that in his forehead glar'd
Like a full moon, or a broad burnish'd shield,
A fork'd *staff* we dextrously apply'd,
Which, in the spacious socket turning round,
Scoop'd out the big round gelly from its orb. *Addison.*
5. An ensign of an office; a badge of authority.
Methought this *staff*, mine office-badger in court,
Was broke in twain. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
All his officers brake their *staves*; but at their return new
staves were delivered unto them. *Hayward on Edward VI.*
6. [Stef, Icelandic.] A stanza; a series of verses regularly disposed, so as that, when the stanza is concluded, the same order begins again.
Cowley found out that no kind of *staff* is proper for an heroic poem, as being all too lyrical; yet though he wrote in couplets, where rhyme is free from constraint, he affects half verses. *Dryden.*
STAFFISH. *adj.* [from *staff*.] Stiff; harsh. Obsolete.
A wit in youth not over dull, heavy, knotty, and lumpish,
but hard, tough, and though somewhat *staffish*, both for learning and whole course of living, proveth always best. *Ascham.*
STAFFETREE. *n. f.* A sort of ever green privet.
STAG. *n. f.* [Of this word I find no derivation.] The male red deer; the male of the hind.
To the place a poor sequestered *stag*,
That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,
Did come to languish. *Shaksp. As you like it.*
The swift *stag* from under ground
Bore up his branching head. *Milton.*
Th' inhabitants of seas and skies shall change,
And fish on shore, and *stags* in air shall range. *Dryden.*
The *stag*
Hears his own feet, and thinks they found like more,
And fears his hind legs will o'take his fore. *Pope.*
STAGIE. *n. f.* [*stages*, French.]
1. A floor raised to view on which any show is exhibited.
2. The theatre; the place of scenic entertainments.
And much good do't you then,
Brave plush and velvet men:

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- Can feed on ort; and, safe in your *stage* el...
- Dare quit, upon your oaths,
'The *stagers* and the *stage* wrights too. *Ben. Johnson.*
Those two Mytilene brethren, basely born, crept out
small galliot into the majesty of great kings. Herein
now up, now down, as if the life of man were not of much
more certainty than a *stage* play. *Knut's Hist. of the Turks.*
I maintain, against the enemies of the *stages*, that patterns
of piety, decently represented, may second the precepts. *Dryd.*
One Livius Andronicus was the first *stage* player in Rome.
Dryden's Juvenal, Dedication.
Knights, squires, and steeds must enter on the *stage*. *Pope.*
Among slaves, who exercised polite arts, none sold to dear
as *stage* players or actors. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
3. Any place where any thing is publicly transacted or performed.
When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great *stage* of fools. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
4. A place in which rest is taken on a journey; as much of a
journey as is performed without intermission. [*Statio*, Latin.]
I shall put you in mind where it was you promised to set out,
or begin your first *stage*; and beseech you to go before me my
guide. *Hammond's Pract. Cath.*
Our next *stage* brought us to the mouth of the Tiber. *Add.*
From thence compell'd by craft and age,
She makes the head her latest *stage*. *Prior.*
By opening a passage from Muscovy to China, and marking
the several *stages*, it was a journey of so many days. *Baker.*
5. A single step of gradual process.
The changes and vicissitude in wars are many; but chiefly
in the *stages* of the war, the weapons, and the manner
of the conduct. *Bacon's Essay.*
We must not expect that our journey through the several
stages of this life should be all smooth and even. *Atterbury.*
To prepare the soul to be a fit inhabitant of that holy place
to which we aspire, is to be brought to perfection by gradual
advances through several hard and laborious *stages* of discipline.
Regis's Sermon.
The first *stage* of healing, or the discharge of matter, is by
furgons called digestion. *Sharp's Surgery.*
To *STAGE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To exhibit publicly.
Out of use.
I love the people;
But do not like to *stage* me to their eyes:
Though it do well, I do not relish well
Their loud applause. *Shaksp. Measure for Measure.*
The quick comedians
Extemporally will *stage* us, and present
Our Alexandrian revels. *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
STAGCOACH. *n. f.* [*Stage* and *coach*.] A coach that keeps its
stages; a coach that passes and repasses on certain days for the
accommodation of passengers.
The story was told me by a priest, as we travelled in a
stagecoach. *Addison.*
When late their miry sides *stagecoaches* show,
And their stiff horses through the town move slow,
'Then let the prudent walker shoes provide. *Gey.*
STAGPLAY. *n. f.* [*Stage* and *play*.] Theatrical entertain-
ment.
This rough-cast unheven poetry was instead of *stageplays* for
one hundred and twenty years. *Dryden's Juvenal Dedication.*
STAGER. *n. f.* [from *stage*.]
1. A player.
You safe in your *stage* clothes,
Dare quit, upon your oaths,
'The *stagers* and the *stage* wrights too. *Ben. Johnson.*
2. One who has long acted on the *stage* of life; a practitioner
a person of cunning.
I've heard old cunning *stagers*
Say, fools for argument use wagers. *Hudibras.*
One experienced *stager*, that had baffled twenty traps and
tricks before, discovered the plot. *L'Estrange.*
Some *stagers* of the wiser sort
Made all these idle wonderments their sport:
But he, who heard what ev'ry fool could say,
Would never fix his thought, but trim his time away. *Dryd.*
One cries out, these *stagers*
Come in good time to make more work for wagers. *Dryd.*
Be by a parson cheated!
Had you been cunning *stagers*,
You might yourselves be treated
By captains and by majors. *Swift.*
STAGGARD. *n. f.* A discourse in horses.
STAGGER. *n. f.* [from *stage*.] A four year old *stag*. *Arbuthnot.*
To *STAGGER*. *v. n.* [*Staggeren*, Dutch.]
1. To reel; not to stand or walk steadily.
He began to appear sick and giddy, and to *stagger*; after
which he fell down as dead. *Boyle.*
He struck with all his might
Full on the helmet of th' unwary knight:
Deep was the wound; he *stagger'd* with the blow. *Dryden.*
Them

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- Them revelling the Tentyrites invade;
By giddy heads and staggering legs betray'd:
Strange odds! where croplick drunkards must engage
An hungry foe. *Tate's Juvenal.*
The immediate forerunners of an apoplexy are a vertigo,
Arbutnot.
staggering, and loss of memory.
2. To faint; to begin to give way.
The enemy *stagers*: if you follow your blow, he falls at
your feet; but if you allow him respite, he will recover his
strength. *Addison.*
3. To hesitate; to fall into doubt; to become less confident or
determined.
A man may, if he were fearful, *stagger* in this empty *Shak.*
He *staggered* not at the promise of God through unbelief;
but was strong in faith. *Rom. iv. 20.*
Three means to fortify belief are experience, reason, and
authority: of these the most potent is authority; for belief
upon reason, or experience, will *stagger*. *Bacon.*
No heretics desire to spread
Their light opinions, like these Epicures;
For so their *staggering* thoughts are comforted,
And other men assent their doubt assures. *Davies.*
If thou confidently depend on the truth of this, without any
doubting or *staggering*, this will be accepted by God. *Hamm.*
But let it inward sink and drown my mind:
Fallood shall want its triumph: I begin
To *stagger*; but I'll prop myself within. *Dryden.*
To *STAGGER*. *v. a.*
1. To make to *stagger*; to make to reel.
That hand shall burn in never-quenching fire,
That *stagers* thus my person. *Shaksp. Richard II.*
2. To shock; to alarm; to make less steady or confident.
The question did at first so *stagger* me,
Bearing a state of mighty moment in't. *Shak. Henry VIII.*
When a prince falls in honour and justice, 'tis enough to
stagger his people in their allegiance. *L'Estrange.*
Whoever will read the story of this war, will find him-
self much *staggered*, and put to a kind of riddle. *Howell.*
The shells being lodged with the blemishes, felenites, and
other like natural fossils, it was enough to *stagger* a spectator,
and make him ready to entertain a belief that these were so
too. *Ward.*
STAGGERS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. A kind of horrid apoplexy.
His horrid past cure of the fives, stark spoil'd with the *stag-*
ger. *Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.*
2. Madnes; wild conduct; irregular behaviour. Out of use.
I will throw thee from my care for ever
Into the *stagers*, and the careless lapse
Of youth and ignorance. *Shak. All's well that ends well.*
STAGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *stagnant*.] The state of being with-
out motion or ventilation.
STAGNANT. *adj.* [*Stagnant*, Latin.] Motionless; still; not
agitated; not flowing; not running.
What does the flood from putrefaction keep?
Should it be *stagnant* in its ample seat,
The sun would through it spread destructive heat. *Blackm.*
'Twas owing to this hurry and action of the water that the
sand now was cast into layers, and not to a regular settle-
ment, from a quiet and *stagnant*. *Woodward.*
Immur'd and busied in perpetual sloth,
That gloomy slumber of the *stagnant* soul. *Irene.*
To *STAGNATE*. *v. n.* [*Stagnum*, Latin.] To lie motion-
less; to have no course or stream.
The water which now arises must have all *stagnated* at the
surface, and could never possibly have been refunded forth
upon the earth, had not the strata been thus raised up. *Wood.*
The aliment moving through the capillary tubes *stagnates*,
and unites itself to the vessel through which it flows. *Arbutnot.*
Where creeping waters ooze,
Where marshes *stagnate*. *Thomson.*
STAGNATION. *n. f.* [from *stagnate*.] Stop of course; cessa-
tion of motion.
As the Alps surround Geneva on all sides, they form a vast
basin, where there would be a constant *stagnation* of vapours,
did not the north wind scatter them from time to time. *Addison.*
To what great ends subservient is the wind?
Behold, where 'er this active vapour flies,
It drives the clouds, and agitates the fies:
This from *stagnation* and corruption saves
Th' aerial ocean's ever-rolling waves. *Blackmore's Creation.*
STAGN. *partial epith. drive.* [from *stag*.] Sober; grave; reg-
ular; composed; not wild; not volatile.
Put thyself
Into a 'aviour of less fear, ere wildness
Vanguish thy *stagn* senses. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*
This seems to our weaker view,
O'erlaid with black *stagn* wisdom's hue. *Milton.*
I should not be a persuader to them of studying much in the
Springs, after three years that they have well laid their rounds;
but to ride out, with prudent and *stagn* guides, to all the quar-
ters of the land. *Milton on Education.*

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- I am the more at ease in Sir Roger's family, because it con-
sists of sober and *staid* persons. *Al. son.*
STADNESS. *n. f.* [from *staid*.] Sobriety; gravity; regularity;
contrariety to wildness.
The boiling blood of youth, fiercely agitating the fluid air;
hinders that serenity and fixed *staidness* which is necessary to so
severe an intemperance. *Glauco. Scyf.*
If sometimes he appears too gay, yet a secret gracefulness
of youth accompanies his writings, though the *staidness* and
sobriety of age be wanting. *Dryd. Preface to Ovid.*
To *STAIN*. *v. a.* [*stainio*, Welsh, from *ys* and *lennu*.]
Rhag Gwyar or Gnowd, *Tal'effyn*, an old British poet.]
Afar *stain*ward.
1. To blot; to spot; to maculate.
Lend me a looking-glass;
If that her breath will mist or *stain* the stone,
Why then the lives. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
From the gash a stream
His armour *stain'd*, ere while so bright. *Milton.*
Embrace again, my sons: be foes no more;
Nor *stain* your country with your children's gore. *Dryden.*
2. To disgrace; to spot with guilt or infamy.
Of honour void, of innocence, of faith, of purity,
Our wonted ornaments now soil'd and *stain'd*. *Milton.*
STAIN. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Blot; spot; discoloration.
Nor death itself can wholly wash their *stains*;
But long contracted filth ev'n in the soul remains:
The reliques of inveterate vice they wear,
And spots of sin. *Dryden's Zen.*
We no where meet with a more pleasing snow than what
appears in the heavens at the rising and setting of the sun,
which is wholly made up of those different *stains* of light that
shew themselves in clouds of a different situation. *Addison.*
Swift trouts diversify'd with crimson *stains*,
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains. *Pope.*
2. Taint of guilt or infamy.
To solemn actions of royalty and justice their suitable orna-
ments are a beauty: are they only in religion a *stain*? *Haber.*
Our opinion, concerning the force and virtue which such
places have, is, I trust, without any blemish or *stain* of he-
rely. *Ireker.*
Then heav'n and earth renew'd, shall be made pure
To sanctify, that shall receive no *stain*. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Ulysses bids his friends to cast lots; for if he had made the
choice himself, they whom he had rejected might have judg'd
it a *stain* upon them for want of merit. *Broome.*
3. Cause of reproach; shame.
Hereby I will lead her that is the praise, and yet the *stain* of
all womankind. *Sidney.*
STAINER. *n. f.* [from *stain*.] One who stains; one who
blots.
STAINLESS. *adj.* [from *stain*.]
1. Free from blots or spots.
The phoenix wings are not so rare
For faultless length and *stainless* hue. *Sidney.*
2. Free from sin or reproach.
I cannot love him;
Yet I suppose him virtuous, know him noble,
Of great estate, of fresh and *stainless* youth. *Shaksp. Lear.*
STAIR. *n. f.* [Jreapen, Saxon; *stages*, Dutch.] Steps by which
we rise an ascent from the lower part of a building to the
upper. *Stair* was anciently used for the whole order of steps;
but *stair* now, if it be used at all, signifies, as in *Milton*, only
one flight of steps.
A good builder to a high tower will not make his *stair* up-
right, but winding almost the full compass about, that the
steepness be the more insensible. *Sidney.*
How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false
As *stairs* of sand, wear yet upon their chins
The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars! *Shaksp. Lear.*
Slaver with lips as common as the *stairs*
That mount the Capitol. *Shaksp.*
I would have one only goodly room above *stairs*, of some
forty foot high. *Bacon's Essay.*
Sir James Tirrel repairing to the Tower by night, attended
by two servants, stood at the *stair*-foot, and sent these two
villains to execute the murder. *Bacon.*
There being good *stairs* at either end, they never went
through each other's quarters *Clarendon.*
The *stairs* were such as whereon Jacob saw
Angels ascending and descending. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Satan now on the lower *stair*,
That seal'd by steps of gold to heav'n gate,
Looks down with wonder at the sudden view
Of all this world. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Trembling he springs,
As terror had increas'd his feet with wings;
Nor *stair* for *stair*; but down the depth he threw
His body; on his back the door he drew. *Dryden.*
STAIRCASE. *n. f.* [*stair* and *case*.] The part of a fabric that
contains the *stairs*.